



April 2006

STATEWIDE AFRICAN AMERICAN INITIATIVE

What we do:

Assembly Bill 1142, Dymally, Chapter 403, Statutes of 2005, enacted the Statewide African American Initiative. The Initiative administered by the California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (CDHS/OA) was established to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on African Americans.

Who we serve:

The Initiative represents a continuation of services currently in practice by CDHS/OA and will create the infrastructure needed to assist community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, health care providers, consumers, community leaders, policy makers, and stakeholders to address the myriad of complex issues associated with HIV/AIDS among African Americans. The Initiative is not a direct service provider but is focused on policy, organizational capacity, workforce development, research, and evaluation. The Initiative is a vital mechanism to providing leadership development, technical assistance, and coalition building in five regions in the State of California to address health disparities among African Americans related to HIV/AIDS.

What you should know:

The Statewide African American Initiative will:

- Establish the administrative, educational, and communication infrastructure, including personnel, facilities, and technology, to support the activities of a provider network.
- Mandate CDHS/OA provide initial administrative support for the core functions of the Initiative until January 1, 2008, when the Initiative becomes an independent non-profit organization.
- Implement the Initiative in five designated regions: 1) Alameda/San Francisco; 2) Los Angeles; 3) Sacramento/Central Valley; 4) San Bernardino/Riverside; and 5) San Diego.
- Concentrate on program development efforts specifically in the areas of research; policy/advocacy; workforce development; organizational capacity; and HIV services administration.
- Mandate that CDHS/OA appoint an internal advisory committee that includes the African American HIV/AIDS Specialist, an OA section head, and a designee to supervise day-to-day activities.
- Require the establishment of a Statewide African American HIV/AIDS Steering Committee.

Historical activities related to the Initiative:

- October 2002: OA convened a Statewide African American Steering Committee to plan a Statewide Summit on African American and HIV/AIDS. The steering committee developed a series of recommendations in five key areas.



- October 2003: OA convened a Statewide Summit on African Americans and HIV.
- March 2004: OA convened a follow up African Americans and HIV/AIDS Summit on policy and research.
- May 2005: The Executive Committee of the Statewide African American Steering Committee developed the infrastructure, governance model, bylaws, values, goals, and objective of the Statewide African American Steering Committee.

Next steps:

- Regional Coalitions: Develop and support each designated region in the development of their local goals, objectives, communication model, and governance strategies as they relate to the Statewide African American Initiative.
- Support and develop the infrastructure of the following Statewide Work Groups: 1) advocacy/policy; 2) research; 3) workforce development; and 4) organizational capacity.
- Action Plan: Develop a statewide action plan in collaboration with the California African American Coalition (formerly the Statewide African American Steering Committee).
- Evaluation and Outcomes: Identify and develop success measures to monitor the progress of the Initiative in reaching its goals.

Helpful resources:

- For information on other local HIV/AIDS services, see the *California Clearinghouse Resource Directory* at Website <http://www.hivinfo.org/links/lhj.htm>.
- For information about HIV/AIDS, call the:
 - *California AIDS Hotline* at (800) 367-AIDS (English/Spanish/Filipino) or (888) 225-AIDS (TDD).
 - *National AIDS Hotline* at (800) 342-AIDS (English), (800) 344-SIDA (Spanish), or (800) 243-7889 (TDD).
- For information on OA's mission, OA programs, and other helpful resources see Website <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS>.

